



The Diaries of Leo Tolstoy (Classic Reprint)

Leo Tolstoy

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When the records of a great mans life are in question it is not so much the culmination a matter of common knowledge which interests one, but rather the first steps, the early indications of what he was eventually to prove himself. Of Tolstoy s Diaries, of which only a portion relating to his latter years has hitherto been published, it may be said that the good wine has been kept till now. The vintage of Tolstoy syouth holds in a rare degree the essence of his matured philosophy. The Diaries, of which the first pages were written in 1846, were, from the beginning. Diaries of thoughts rather than of actions. They express many of the ideas which he was afterwards to expand in his polemical works, and they owe their vital qua Hty not only to intimate, self-revealing touches, but because they voice the cry of Youth in all climes and ages Youth which is ever in spiritual conflict between the external laws of Hfe and the needs of the inner being. It was a subject upon which Tolstoy wrote and pondered much in the course of his long Ufe. His decision to constitute his friend, M. Tchertkoff, editor of the Diaries imposed upon the latter an onerous task. The greater part of the original MSS. being retained by the Historical Museum of Moscow, was not available, so that the editor was forced to rely on the correctness of the copies furnished to him. He was also hampered by the restrictions of the Imperial censorship, in addition to the necessity for considerable excision, owing to the private and personal nature of some of the entries which had been originally intended for no eyes but those of the writer. (Typographical errors above are due to OCR software and don't occur in the book.)

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